

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Restriction has been required between a first group of claims including claims 1-6 (Group I), and a second group of claims including claims 7-15 (Group II).

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I (claims 1-6) for further prosecution on the merits at this time, without traverse.

As Applicants have elected the claims of Group I for further prosecution on the merits, an election of species is also required. In particular, the Examiner has required that Applicants elect one species, from each of the following groups, to which prosecution on the merits will be restricted if no generic claims are found to be allowable: 1) species of first layers including a metal oxide, and a mixture comprising a metal oxide; and 2) species of metal oxides including oxides that are difficult to reduce, and reducible metal oxides.

Applicants hereby elect the following groups to which prosecution on the merits will be restricted if no generic claims are found to be allowable: the species for first layers including a metal oxide (on which claim 3-5 are readable); and the species of metal oxides including reducible metal oxides (on which claim 5 is readable).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, from which claims 2-6 depend, is generic to claims 2-6. It is Applicants' understanding that this election is being made to aid the Examiner in conducting a search and examination of the claimed subject matter, and is not to be construed as limiting the scope of the claims of the application. It is also Applicant's understanding that, if the elected subject matter is found to be allowable over the prior art, the search and examination will be expanded to cover other species, until it includes the full scope of the generic claim included in the elected group.

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PATENT

A notice of allowability is respectfully requested.

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